

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches per side.

RAILROAD TO NOWHERE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President this week threatened to veto the emergency supplemental spending bill currently under consideration in the Senate, and rightfully so.

Members of the other body have been busy adding billions of dollars in non-emergency pork to this emergency spending bill, and the price tag is simply unjustifiable.

One particularly egregious earmark seeks \$700 million in Federal funds to move a railroad track that has just been repaired at the cost of \$250 million. Supporters of the project say the rail line needs to be moved because it is vulnerable to hurricane damage. Yet the proposed new location is just a short distance inland and was greatly damaged by Katrina last year.

The real reason supporters want this newly repaired rail line moved is to make room for a casino gambling development along the gulf coast.

Mr. Speaker, relocating a newly updated rail line to an equally vulnerable area simply to make room for casino gambling is not an emergency. The taxpayer should not have to pick up the tab for this railroad to nowhere.

I urge the President to stand by his veto threat unless pork like this is removed from the bill.

REPUBLICAN NOTE TO LOBBYISTS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, investigators have recently uncovered a letter from the Republican leadership to special interest lobbyists.

Dear Lobbyists,
How do I love thee?

Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth of thy oil wells, for thou shall have \$14.5 billion to drill them.

I love thee to the heights of thy drug profits,

For the Medicare bill gives you \$139 billion in profits.

I love thee for thy golf courses, private jets and retirement jobs.

I love thee for thy donations, libations and vacations.

For now we must part, and I call it reform.

But remember, in December, once we get past November,

The travel ban expires, and I'll meet you at the tees.

Yours forever, cause I can't quit you,
The Republican Congress.

SIMPLE QUESTION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, along with the rising gas prices over the last few weeks, we have also seen the rise of Democratic demagoguery. For the moment, though, I would like the Democrats to put aside this demagoguery and answer a simple question: What have you done to help lower gas prices?

I know that House Republicans have been working hard to lower the cost of gasoline over the mid- and long term. We have passed the Gasoline for America's Security Act which increases U.S. fuel supply by encouraging new refineries, bans price gouging, promotes conservation.

House Republicans have also passed the Energy Policy Act which allows new domestic oil and gas exploration and development, increases conservation, and embraces new fuel choices.

That is what the Republicans have done. The Democrats, on the other hand, have opposed building new refineries, have opposed drilling in ANWR and, in fact, voted against both of these bills.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have worked hard to address America's energy needs. And the Democrats? Well, I think we have our answer. They have not done much.

ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is no small amount of irony that Republicans are now rushing to investigate high gas prices and professing themselves to be on the side of the consumer.

What is important is not what they have said in the last couple of days, but what they have done for the entire time they have been in power here in Washington, D.C. It is outrageous that the same people who are now decrying high gas prices were lavishing billions of dollars in subsidies on the same oil industry a few months ago, despite already bloated profits.

In the 1990s the Republicans even passed legislation that forbade the Department of Transportation to even study higher fuel efficiency, something that would significantly reduce demand today.

And they have expressed no outrage that the American taxpayer is being cheated out of fair payment for the oil and gas that is being taken from public lands by these same large companies.

There are real solutions. Invest in conservation, the only way to reduce immediate dependence on expensive foreign oil now. Shift the billions of dollars in oil and gas companies to renewable and alternative energy sources, and insist that the American

taxpayer be given full value for the billions of dollars of oil and gas taken from public lands.

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LONE STAR VOICE: BILLY MINX

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, another Lone Star voice from my district. Billy Minx in Channelview, Texas, e-mailed me on Tuesday. This is what he had to say about those illegally in America:

"In the recent immigration protests; the first protests showed the true intent of the mass of these illegal immigrants. The overwhelming majority of the flags were Mexican flags. These people are loyal to Mexico. I have a neighbor down the street who is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico, and he flat out told me if the U.S. and Mexico were at war with each other, he would fight for Mexico.

"We may be a Nation of immigrants, but the majority of Americans were born here and their parents were born here. My great, great, great, great, great Grandfather John C. Hale was killed at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 defeating Santa Anna and Mexico (and thus making Texas an independent country). He is one of nine Texans buried there on the battlefield.

"Now my elected officials want to simply hand Texas back to Mexico. It's a traitorous act what is about to happen in this Congress. I pray you will not be an accomplice."

Mr. Speaker, Congress has an obligation to prevent the illegal colonization of this Nation.

And that's just the way it is.

BUSH RX DRUG TAX: EIGHTEEN
DAYS UNTIL TAX TAKES EFFECT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if House Republicans really want to help America's seniors, they would join us in reversing a proposal in the Republican prescription drug plan that would penalize any senior who chooses a private drug plan after May 15.

As this calendar shows, we have 18 days left. If House Republicans do not support our efforts to extend the deadline until the end of the year, millions of seniors will face a prescription drug tax that they must pay every month for the rest of their lives.

Over 14 million seniors still have not chosen a plan. Some are frustrated, confused by dozens of plans they have to choose from. Others have heard the horror stories of seniors not having access to drugs they were promised or seniors being overcharged for some of their medication. Some of these seniors will eventually want to choose a